



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Legislative Leaders Committed to Funding Only Those Priorities State Can Afford

First budget question that matters has been answered

Lansing - The first of the four questions that matter regarding the state's budget was answered today at the Revenue Estimating Conference.

The state's budget will be about \$39.5 billion in 2006, based on estimates made today on General Fund and School Aid Fund revenue coupled with assumptions on revenue for federal and state restricted funds.

"Times are tough, which means residents and job providers have had to prioritize their budgets," said House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Novi. "State government needs to do the same thing by first determining how much we have, and then paying for only those priorities we can afford."

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema agreed that the state must begin living within its means.

"We answered the first of four questions today," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "Now we need to objectively and realistically look at the demands upon our limited resources while answering the next three questions that matter."

Sikkema and DeRoche both conceded that the estimates may change, however both ruled out further budget gimmicks, one-time fixes or tax increases to pay for programs the state may no longer be able to afford.

The next three questions are:

1. What results matter most to Michigan's citizens and how does government set priorities to attain those results?
2. What percentage of the budget should be spent to achieve each result?
3. How can government best deliver results?

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